

standing its use, in the extract from the Rev. T. Phillips's MS., before referred to.

P.S. A singular habit of the Flamingoes has been observed, which induces me to believe that something analogous to the secreting-power already alluded to exists in these birds. During the time the Flamingoes were kept in the same aviary with the Cariamas, the latter birds, as is their habit, frequently turned their bills upwards and uttered their harsh and loud notes. The Flamingoes, apparently under the impression of their want of food, advanced to their assistance, and holding their heads over the gaping mouths of the Cariamas ejected a glutinous fluid (nearly resembling blood in colour), which fell sometimes into the mouths of the Cariamas, but more frequently on to their backs, and rendered their feathers glutinous and, when dry, very dirty.

Since writing the foregoing, I have obtained some of the coloured fluid from the Flamingoes, ejected this day (March 22, 1869), and, having submitted it to the examination of Dr. Murie, find by viewing it under the microscope that it contains a vast proportion of blood-corpuscles, and is little else than blood. Have we here an explanation of the old story of the Pelican feeding its young with its own blood? I think we have; for the Flamingo was, and is still, found plentifully in the country alluded to; and it may be that in the translation the habit of the one bird has been transferred to the other. At any rate, I have no doubt that the Flamingo feeds its young by disgorging its food, as is shown by the bloody secretion that I find ejected by these birds in their endeavour to feed the craving Cariamas. This habit has been observed and remarked upon, and has doubtless led to what we have so long considered a fable. I have yet to learn if the same power may not exist in the Pelicans, and perhaps in other birds, of supplying nutriment to their young by these means.

4. On the Birds of the Vicinity of Lima, Peru. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S. With Notes on their Habits; by Professor W. NATION, of Lima, C.M.Z.S. (Part III.*)

(Plate XII.)

A third small collection of birdskins from Professor Nation has lately reached me, together with notes upon some of the species, which I have now the pleasure of submitting to the Society.

1. *CAMPYLORHYNCHUS BALTEATUS*, Baird, Rev. A. B. p. 103.

C. zonatoides, Scl. P. Z. S. 1860, p. 272.

C. pallescens, Sclater, Cat. A. B. p. 16.

* Continued from P. Z. S. 1867, p. 344.



M. J. HANBART, IMP.

NEURHYTHUS MASEUS

Professor Baird is probably right in recognizing in the species I have hitherto called *Camp. megalopterus* the true *C. pallescens* of Lafresnaye. I therefore adopt his suggested name for the present species, which I had at one time supposed to be Lafresnaye's *C. pallescens*, and at another time to be his *C. zonatoides*. Mr. Nation sends one young specimen, agreeing with a skin of Fraser's from Babahoyo in my collection.

2. PHEUCTICUS CHRYSOGASTER (Less.).

An adult male of this species. It is a close ally of *P. aureiventris* (Lafr. et D'Orb.), but easily separable in the adult, although I am not yet prepared to say this is always the case in immaturity.

3. NEORHYNCHUS NASESUS. (Plate XII.)

Callirhynchus masesus, Bp. C. R. xlii. p. 822.

"This rare and singular Finch is a summer visitor; it arrives about the end of November, and leaves about the beginning of May. Its favourite haunts are clumps of tall willow trees, in the vicinity of water. Rarely more than one or two individuals frequent the same clump. During the day it conceals itself in the densest foliage of the trees, utters at intervals a whistling note, not unlike the call-note of *Cardinalis virginialis*; when disturbed, it glides from branch to branch and from tree to tree; and it is so shy and recluse that it requires great caution and perseverance to procure even a glimpse of it. It feeds on the seeds of grasses that grow in wet shady places; in the stomach of one example I found unripe Indian corn and bits of a substance that resembled egg-shells.

"The upper mandible of this species, when perfect, greatly curves over the lower, as in some of the *Psittacidæ*; but the tip, being weak, is very often broken or worn away.

"In March 1867 I picked up a young bird that had escaped from the nest before it could fly; it is now living in a cage along with some *Spermophili*."—W. N.

Mr. Nation has forwarded a single skin of this bird, which is the first specimen that has come under my notice of this rare species. It agrees with the late Prince Bonaparte's short description of his *Callirhynchus nasesus** sufficiently well to prevent my describing it as a new species.

Lesson's term *Callirhynchus* having been previously employed for a well-known genus of fishes, I propose *Neorhynchus* in its place.

4. SPERMOPHILA TELASCO, Lesson; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 341.

A young pair of this Finch, of which Mr. Nation had previously sent specimens.

5. STURNELLA BELLICOSA, De Filippi; Sclater, C. A. B. p. 128.

Examples of both sexes of this species.

* This name is printed in the C. R. *masesus*. I suppose this may be a misprint for *nasesus*—in allusion to the worn tip of the upper mandible.—P. L. S.